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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Mining in the Tovarkovo Coal Mining District	CD NO.	
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[redacted]

1. The Tovarkovo coal district is in the Tula area about 35 kms. south of Moscow.

2. The coal is a lignite and occurs in seams from one and one-half to three meters thick and reaches within eight meters of the surface. The calorific value is between three and three and a half calories per kilogram. The dip of the coal seam is between zero and eight degrees. The areal extent of each deposit is limited.

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3. The mining methods used until about 1938 were extremely primitive. A shaft was sunk to a depth of about 10 meters and equipped with cage for hoisting one ton coal cars. A lateral was driven on the coal seam to the limit of the mineable coal where a ventilation shaft was raised to the surface. The coal on each side of the main heading was then mined out advancing by a room and pillar method. Loading was by hand and tramming by hand and horses.

4a. About 1938 mechanization was introduced and a systematic method of mining, allegedly designed by Soviet engineers, was introduced at each mine. A central shaft is sunk and main headings driven both ways to the limits of mineable ore. This distance is commonly a maximum of 300 to 400 meters. This main heading is equipped with belt conveyors which carry the coal from crosscuts to the shaft.

b. At 100 meter intervals in the main headings crosscuts are driven both ways at right angles to the main heading and to the limits of mineable coal, a maximum distance of 300 meters. Each third crosscut is also equipped with belt conveyors. Beginning at the limits of the coal, rooms are driven at right angles to and on both sides of the crosscut as far as the next crosscut, ie. 100 meters. The coal is undercut by machines, drilled by air drills and loaded onto shaking conveyors in the rooms which carry it to the crosscut conveyors. All openings are timbered and ventilation is secured by blowers and ventilation shafts.

5. On the surface the coal is screened dry on shaking screens into five sizes. No washing is used. Most of the coal was used for electric power generation.

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